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CODIB-D-111/1.3/6

24 August 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, OCR

SUBJECT: CODIB Proposal for Foreign Publications Subcommittee

REFERENCE: CODIB-D-111/1.3/6, 18 August 1966

1. As the CIA member of CODIB, you may wish to consider my comments on the referenced paper, which is planned for discussion at the 29 August meeting of CODIB.

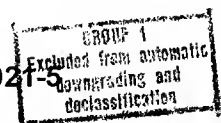
2. Reading this paper, one gets the impression that outside of the very minor role of acquiring foreign publications, the only thing that happens to them is that they are "exploited." The approach is unrealistic. Overlooked, among others, is the emphasis CIA is placing on foreign language competence, spreading the capability of researchers to use original source material; ignored is the vital role that libraries play in acquiring (except in CIA), cataloging, circulating, offering reference service from and selecting foreign publications, etc. It is to be hoped that the error in not having any librarians present during the deliberations of the Subcommittee preparing this paper will be rectified in CODIB, which has several library-trained members. They should be heard in order to avoid presenting such an imbalanced paper to USIB.

3. The Library of Congress joins other libraries in getting the "silent treatment" in the presentation. Yet it seems most appropriate to consider LC from at least two points of view: a) its greatly expanded acquisition program recently approved by the U.S. Congress, whereby the major publications of most countries will be procured on a world-wide basis (where feasible, tying in to the national bibliography publication schemes, [REDACTED]); and b) its automation program which will eventually provide not only a computerized retrieval system for the publications received but also the capability to provide list-outs in many, varied arrangements.

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4. For the CODIB Comment on the Report (pages 4 & 5) which discusses the constitution and duties of the Foreign Publications Committee, it is suggested that library representation be specifically incorporated, including the Library of Congress. The title, Foreign Publications Committee, is broad enough to and should cover much more than merely acquisition and exploitation. I wonder also

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whether some reference to a possible tie-in with COSATI might not be appropriate. I am concerned lest this CODIB subcommittee have responsibilities duplicative of existing groups, whether or not under the permissive umbrella of "intelligence."

5. If the paper is not completely re-written to incorporate some of the ideas expressed above, as well as others, I suggest that at least Section D, recommendations, pages 5 and 6, be carefully reviewed. Specifically, recommendations 1-3 should include emphasis on the retrievability of foreign publications; No. 4 is not pertinent to USIB for consideration--it is a method that the Subcommittee should act upon; No. 5 should include specific mention of the distribution of appropriate material to the non-intelligence community; No. 6 should emphasize the fact that all exploitation data be compatible so that it can be put into retrieval systems as needed; and No. 7 should be reviewed further by both reference librarians and research personnel to see if they really require the proposed publications.

6. The one positive element in the reference paper that appeals to me is the disappearance of the "foreign document" concept. This is good, and long overdue. Now if we can only eliminate the use of "exploitation" with all of its unpleasant connotations, we will really be making progress. "Content analysis" would be much more dignified. Again, however, there are many others in the whole field of the processing of foreign publications who have much to offer, should be consulted--yes, even exploited.

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CIA Librarian

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